

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the citizens of Hawai'i recognize that the future course of our state and nation rest in the hands of today's youth, who will be tomorrow's leaders, and realize that children and young adults need a solid foundation of support that will help them become well-educated, confident and productive citizens, giving rise to a stronger state and nation; and

WHEREAS, mentoring is a proven, effective strategy that helps children and young adults by matching them with a caring, responsible adult who can provide guidance and direction, and build their confidence and stability; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that mentoring has a definitive impact on young people, increasing their chances of high school graduation and college attendance, and decreasing the likelihood of involvement with drugs, alcohol, and violent behavior; and

WHEREAS, in the Aloha State, Successful **TR**ansitions In **D**iverse **E**nvironments (STRIDE) Hawai'i was established as a collaborative mentoring project designed to meet the culturally-appropriate needs of transition-age youth and young adults with disabilities in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i joins with the nation in recognizing January 2006 as National Mentoring Month; and

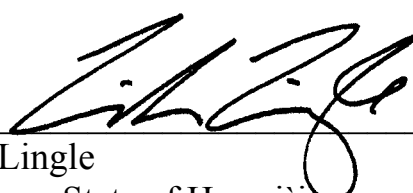
WHEREAS, throughout the month of January, people across the United States will celebrate mentoring by hosting related events and activities that highlight its benefits and encourage others to volunteer as mentors for our children and young adults,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim January 2006, as

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

in Hawai'i, and urge our citizens to recognize the importance of mentoring and extend my gratitude to those who are already involved with mentoring programs.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this eighteenth day of January 2006.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i